

## REVENUE SUGGESTIONS.

WHERE REFORMS CAN BE MADE.  
CHANGES PROPOSED BY THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE COMMITTEE—SALARIES TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMISSION.

The Custom-house Investigating Commission reassembled yesterday, after a week's vacation, and held a conference from 12:30 to 5 p.m. with the Committee on Revenue Reform of the Chamber of Commerce, composed of Jackson S. Schmitz, Thomas Barbour, and Daniel C. Robbins. Thomas C. Acton and Elliott C. Cowdin were also present. Mr. Jay read the following from Secretary Sherman, imposing additional work on the Commission:

I desire to present for the consideration of your Commission in action the following points, to it by my letter of the 2d into the question of salaries now paid to custom-house officials, the amounts which are not fixed by law. I will want you to examine this question and report to me what for their classification and the basis as to just compensation the Government has given to the different classes of duties, the Government giving him no further trouble. The French system should be taken as a model. The Revenue Reform Committee has been working on a new law regarding Custom-houses, and some of its provisions, and intended to meet the next Conference, was intended to meet the requirements of 1877. He advocated the abolition of the Naval Office and the reorganization of the Apurys's Department. The abuses connected with the custom-house and the conduct of its officers and agents were scandalous. Passengers on an average brought home from the Caucasus seem to show that the insurrection had spread toward the Caspian Sea, for a successful expedition is regarded as a tribe on the eastern slopes of the Caucasus, which form a part of Daghestan.

The bulletins report that Gen Kravchenko had a hot engagement with the enemy on passing over the bridge of Boydad. From this it would seem he has been obliged to leave the position above Sukum-Kaleh and fall back behind the river Kodor, where a force is being assembled to prevent the Turks from invading Mingrelia.

The *Daily News*'s dispatch from Vienna says "it is thought probable that the Circassian insurrection may now spread and close the military roads along the Caspian Sea. Orders have been sent to Astrachan to embark reinforcements to be landed on the Eastern Caucasian shore."

THE TURKS REPULSED.

VIENNA, Monday, June 4, 1877.

A dispatch from Ostrak reports that the Prince of Montenegro has effected a junction with the corps under Gen. Yukovitch, which holds the Dusa Pass. The Turks tried to prevent the junction, but were repulsed.

RUSSIA'S RELATIONS WITH ENGLAND.

LONDON, Tuesday, June 5, 1877.

The *Times*'s correspondent at Paris telegraphs that he has "reason to believe the assurances, which it now seems certain Count Schouvaloff brings relative to the eventual temporary occupation of Constantinople, are in answer to a question put by England as to Russia's intentions relative to Constantinople.

If Russia believed herself obliged to reply to such a question, she would be unable, at least officially, to do so otherwise than as alluded to. A nation knowing its capital to be pressed on the ground of sanctity, and in time of war, to adopt the Duxa standard used in the classification of sugars should be sent back to England and kept there. He spoke of combinations on the part of Custom-house brokers and lawyers to deprive England of the portuguese colonies, and ought to be abolished. The 23 changes recommended are the following:

- 1. The reduction of the Naval Office.
- 2. One or two entries to be made before any notary public, or before a notary.
- 3. The abolition of triplets levies.
- 4. The abolition of custom certificates.
- 5. Payment of duties in converted bills.
- 6. A law to be passed the same day that we are left at 12 o'clock.

- 7. A change from inland to specific duties.
- 8. The repeal of the present law restraining the Government, on detaining one party, in every case, in a package in each instance, so that the party can be taken to trial without an ex parte hearing, and its subsequent trial, in law, or in criminal cases, in the same place.
- 9. The abolition of penal fees, including the fees for permits and entries, and to do away with all 2000 fees.
- 10. The abolition of market value if it is more than invoice price, but on inland price if the same is not equal to or less than market value.
- 11. The same for inland price if it is more than invoice price, but on inland price if the same is not equal to or less than market value.
- 12. The Custom-houses to be kept open from 10 to 4. (This has already been ordered at the suggestion of the Commission.)
- 13. A reduction of charges at general order stores, also for carriage.
- 14. The prompt filing by wagers and gauges of their returns.
- 15. The total abolition of all damage allowances, and the repeal of all laws providing for the payment of damage allowances to the importers of the various parts of the Custom-houses to whom the importation.
- 16. The abolition of penal fees, including the fees for permits and entries, and to do away with all 2000 fees.
- 17. The abolition of market value if it is more than invoice price, but on inland price if the same is not equal to or less than market value.
- 18. The abolition of the right of entry within forty days, and the application of a 10 per cent. duty on all imports of the various parts of the Custom-houses to whom the importation.
- 19. The abolition of penal fees, including the fees for permits and entries, and to do away with all 2000 fees.
- 20. The abolition of market value if it is more than invoice price, but on inland price if the same is not equal to or less than market value.
- 21. The Custom-houses to be kept open from 10 to 4. (This has already been ordered at the suggestion of the Commission.)
- 22. A reduction of charges at general order stores, also for carriage.
- 23. The prompt filing by wagers and gauges of their returns.
- 24. The total abolition of all damage allowances, and the repeal of all laws providing for the payment of damage allowances to the importers of the various parts of the Custom-houses to whom the importation.
- 25. The abolition of penal fees, including the fees for permits and entries, and to do away with all 2000 fees.
- 26. The abolition of market value if it is more than invoice price, but on inland price if the same is not equal to or less than market value.
- 27. The abolition of penal fees, including the fees for permits and entries, and to do away with all 2000 fees.
- 28. Goods procured otherwise than by purchase should be levied at actual market value at period of exportation.
- 29. Greater prudence should be exercised in determining rates of duty when once fixed by the Treasury Department.

Regarding inland transportation, Mr. Eaton said there was a very general belief among New-York merchants that inland ports of entry should be abolished.

Mr. Jay—"I have merchants in the West expressed the same belief!" (Laughter.)

No. 1. Some of the members of the firm of Field, Leiter & Co., Chicago recently, and he was decidedly of the opinion that inland ports of entry should not be abolished, and also made the significant remark that they (the Western merchants) had too many votes in Congress for us."

Mr. Robbins addressed the Commission on revenue reform. He said, in part:

Specific duties have been taken the place of ad valorem rates in Europe that may be said to be universal, and our largest importers declare specific rates to be the principal method of taxation, and the signature of Government officials not much over 60 per cent. of what is due on goods paying ad valorem duties is collected, and unless rates are made specific all respectable importers will in time be compelled to do so. In Great Britain, for example, no import duty is imposed on the goods imported, and the product of the excise duty on them is used for the use of stamping paper, causing a loss of \$10 on re-exportations.

23. Let re-exported goods be banished.

24. Increased imports in respect among themselves.

25. No duty should be imposed on goods imported with inland warehouses. [Mr. Turnure said there ought to be such a regulation, now, as he assisted in framing one several years ago.]

26. Goods procured otherwise than by purchase should be levied at actual market value at period of exportation.

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